



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
September 29, 2017**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
William Caster
Larry Gomez
Jerry Melaragno
Richard Shovelin
Dan Williams

Absentees: LeRoy Candelaria

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer

CALL TO ORDER:

The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman, at the Natural Resource Conservation Center Conference Room located at 1206 South HWY 55 in Mountainair, NM at 8:10 a.m.

Welcome Attendees:

The chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from August 4, 2017 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of August, 2017 with accounts payable for September, 2017.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for August, 2017 and pay the accounts payable for September, 2017. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of September, 2017 with the accounts payable for October, 2017. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to accept the report for September and pay the accounts payable for October. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Melaragno gave his unofficial summary treasurer's report. He mentioned that the district's total conservation funding at the end of September was almost \$1.5 million.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager received a letter from Rick Lopez, director of the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration certifying the district's 2017 – 2018 budget.

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve the district's 2017 – 2018 budget. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Students from the Mountainair elementary school will be attending a program sponsored by Cooperative Extension in Estancia. The district will pay for a driver and for the gas for the bus.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS Field Office two written reports are included in board members' packets. Mr. Lujan said that the Local Work Group on August 29th went really well. The turnout was very good, and the host in Encino provided great refreshments. Team allocations will continue instead of office allocations. Mr. Lujan said that the allocations worked out well this year, and the process was fair. He also explained that there won't be any caps on practices. Soil erosion was added to rangeland and forest land as a priority resource concern. Mr. Lovato and the district manager commented on how well the meeting went and how generous that the refreshments were that the host provided for the meeting.

Mr. Lujan reported on CSP saying that there have been a lot of changes. He explained some of those changes including the requirement for the producer to hire a consultant to do the documentation. He then described the extent of participation in the program.

Mr. Lujan's last day as acting district conservationist will be October 23rd. He hopes that the permanent position will be filled before long. He described cuts to personnel in NRCS and the effects of those cuts.

Review Memorandum of Understanding:

No report.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's written reports for August and September are included in the board member's packets. She answered questions, and Felipe Lovato commented on a conversation he had with Indonesian forest management officials at the Isleta Pueblo at a multi-party meeting. He was especially interested in the abundance of water in Indonesia in contrast to the scarcity of it in New Mexico. The Indonesians were interested in learning about collaborative practices in New Mexico and visited several projects.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The district manager commented on a letter she received from the Valencia SWCD, which had its local workgroup on the same day as this area's meeting in Encino.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The district manager's report on grants listed below includes meetings attended, progress on projects, status of proposals to funding agencies, and RFPs issued by funding agencies.

Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project – Water Trust Board (WTB) and State Forestry Grants (NFL,) and Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA)

WTB and State Forestry Grant -- The district manager said that most of the projects are finished. The funds have been spent down to required levels, so she can submit a full proposal for 2018, which is due on Tuesday.

The State Forestry NFL grant applies to WTB funding as a match. Most of these funds have been drawn down. A meeting will take place on September 31, and what projects can be finished will be discussed.

Lawrence Crane has been out of town fighting fires in various states, but he has returned, so now a Claunch-Pinto work plan for the state forestry grant can be submitted soon.

The district manager didn't submit a proposal for a Wildland Urban Interface grant because she felt that the district will be too busy to take on other projects.

GRGWA – All of the money has been drawn down. Two projects need to be finished. One of these is the one that the district is working on with the pueblo of Acoma, a forest thinning project on Horse Mesa on pueblo land near a joint project with Cibola National Forest. The other is a project with the pueblo of Santo Domingo.

The district manager mentioned that Vern and his crew have been spraying re-sprouts.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood LLC CFRP:

Work has been taking place in the Goshawk habitat since the first of September. Being able to remove wood from the area was in question.

Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:

The Mexican Spotted Owl survey on Capilla Peak is finished, and SWCA has prepared reports to submit to the Forest Service, so that project is on time.

The district manager said that the cultural surveys have been completed for the Corona CFRP, and SWCA will turn in the reports today.

Chupadera CFRP:

The district manager said that soon she will meet with the State Land office, BLM and the contractors who will do the work. The contractors will report to her.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP):

The district manager received word from NRCS that the funds for 2016 have been contracted, one in the Grants area, one in the Cuba area and one in the Taos area. She has signed the paperwork for the 2017 funds so NRCS can advertise for applications. Mr. Lujan said that applicants not funded through the RCP can be moved over to EQIP. He expects to have 16 to 20 applications when unfunded EQIP applications are moved over.

The district manager is waiting for a notice to proceed on the 2017 funding.

The district manager said that she was approved to submit a full proposal for 2018 funding, and it was submitted a little early. She is proud of the support that she received for the proposal.

From this support, she gained a substantial level of leverage to support the request for the four million dollars made in the proposal.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that she is waiting for a work plan from State Forestry before she can proceed with a project on the state park.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The Torrance County Hazardous Mitigation Plan has been submitted, so the district manager is waiting to find out if the proposal got funded.

New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Water Quality Grant:

The district manager will work with Cody Stropki on plans to conduct a workshop with the Mountainair fire department on a water catchment system.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- Shop Building Bid Documents:

The district manager said that she prepared an RFP and advertised it. Only one proposal was submitted in response to the advertising. She has prepared a contract which she has to take to Santa Fe to be reviewed and approved. Then a notice to proceed will be issued. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to authorize the chairman to sign the contract with the contractor. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment Wilderness Inventory:

The district manager said that a draft of the revision probably won't be available until some time in 2018.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager said the program has received eight applications. After a period of advertising the position in local newspapers, no local applications were received. A discussion followed on the positive aspects of the program both for the participant and the employer.

Beautification – Partnership with the town of Mountainair – Elm Trees in Town Right of Ways:

The district manager is writing an MOU between the town of Mountainair and the district.

District Legal Description:

Mr. Gomez reported that he and the district manager reviewed the boundary maps and found some areas that need to be added to district boundaries on the southern end of the district. SWCA provided larger maps with ranges and townships making it easier to see what changes have to be made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual meeting:

The district manager proposes to have an annual meeting in November. She suggests having an open house, which would provide an opportunity for participants to tour the building, see the work on the shop, and visit the hoop house.

Resolution No. 04 – 2018 – WTB Submission of Application for EBWHRM:

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve Resolution No. 04 – 2018. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote as follows: William Caster -- yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Felipe Lovato — yea.

Resolution No. 05 – 2018 – WTB Submission of Application for GRGWA:

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve Resolution No. 05 – 2018. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote as follows: William Caster -- yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Felipe Lovato — yea.

Resolution No. 06 – 2018 – Acceptance of SWCD Boundary Maps and GIS Shape Files:

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve Resolution No. 06 – 2018. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote as follows: William Caster -- yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Felipe Lovato — yea.

Resolution No. 07 – 2018 – Approval of Claunch-Pinto SWCD Legal Description and Boundary Maps:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 07 – 2018. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote as follows: William Caster -- yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Felipe Lovato — yea.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager distributed a draft of the NMCCD bylaws with some corrections. Board members are to contact Richard Shovelin or the district manager with any comments or questions. The annual meeting will be on October 10 at the Bodega Burger in Socorro.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

EBWPC:

The district manager said that the August meeting was cancelled, but a meeting will be held in October.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Torrance County has remitted the \$1500 that it owed to the district.

The district manager wants to work with Mr. Lujan on creating some soil health demonstration areas on district property.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Mr. Shovelin attended a meeting at the plant materials center. He said that the content was mostly about planting trees, in particular a JuJu berry tree.

Mr. Williams attended a water research institute meeting in Socorro. There were good discussions on water basins and water management.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

Mr. Melaragno suggested that the board meeting be held before the annual meeting on the same day.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, November 3, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55, Mountainair, NM.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board: **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.